

with Dr. Johnson's Compliments
"Rockfield"
Dunstable
W. Bolton

Medical Officer of Health's Report
for 1905.

The Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of
Turton.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of the Urban District of Turton, together with a summary of sanitary work during the year 1905.

The presentation of this Report marks the completion of 25 years service as Medical Officer of Health to your Authority.

The various statistical items are calculated upon a population basis at the middle period of the year of 12,565, at a rate per thousand of population.

The total number of births was 250; 135 males and 115 females, or an annual rate of 19·89. The rate for the whole County during the year 1904, was 25·66, and for England and Wales during the same period, was 27·9. The number and rate in your district for the year 1904 were 277 and 22·13 respectively. As compared with the year 1904, the past year shows a decrease in the birth rate of 2·24, and a decrease of 1·71 upon the mean of the previous 6 years. Subjoined is an analytical table in respect of births in the 4 principal divisions of your district.

Births in	Population.		1905.			1904.			Rate.	
	1905.	1904.	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	1905.	1904.
Turton	6893	6866	73	58	131	70	79	149	19·0	22·3
Edgworth	2555	2550	22	23	45	21	30	51	17·61	20·0
Bradshaw	2256	2244	28	26	54	31	27	58	24·37	25·8
Belmont	861	853	8	12	20	9	10	19	23·22	22·1
Total.....	12565	12513	131	119	250	131	146	277	19·89	22·13

Each of the localities specified shows a decline in the birth rate excepting Belmont, which remains practically the same as the previous year.

The total number of deaths during the year was 146; 65 males and 81 females. The annual death rate was 11·62, a decrease of 0·92 on the rate for 1904, and a decrease of 1·43 upon the mean of the previous 6 years. The County rate for the year 1904 was 15·78, and the rate for the whole of England and Wales was 16·2, so that your district in respect of mortality occupies a favourable position. The following table shows the death distribution in the 4 principal divisions of your district, and the comparative statistics of the years 1905 and 1904.

Deaths in	Population.		1905.			1904.			Rate.	
	1905.	1904.	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	1905.	1904.
Turton	6893	6866	30	46	76	35	57	92	11·02	13·2
Edgworth	2555	2550	16	19	35	13	13	26	13·69	9·8
Bradshaw	2256	2244	18	13	31	17	14	31	13·74	13·7
Belmont	861	853	1	3	4	5	3	8	4·64	9·3
Total	12565	12513	65	81	146	70	87	157	11·62	12·54

You will observe that Turton shows a diminution of 2·2, that Edgworth has increased its rate by 3·6, that Bradshaw exhibits the same rate as last year, whilst Belmont shows a decrease of 4·7, or about one half the rate for 1904. The increase in the Edgworth district is accounted for by the increased mortality consequent upon the Scarlet Fever Epidemic in that locality.

The deaths of infants under 1 year of age numbered 18, or an equivalent rate of 72·0 per thousand births during the year. Zymotic diseases caused 15 deaths, or a rate of 1·19 per thousand of population. There were 9 deaths from Phthisis, or a rate of 0·636. Respiratory diseases caused 34 deaths, or a rate of 2·706.

Comparing the year 1905 with the previous one, the infant mortality rate shows a saving of child life to the extent of 11·0 per thousand. The equivalent rates for the County and for England and Wales during the year 1904 were 162 and 146 respectively, more than double the rate for your district. A further gratifying circumstance may be found in the fact that the rate for the present

year is 22·15 lower than the mean of the previous 6 years. The Zymotic rate has increased in consequence of an increased number of deaths from Scarlet Fever in the Edgworth locality. Although it was much higher than the preceding year, it is still well below the average rate of the Urban Districts in the Country, and that prevailing in the whole of England and Wales. The Respiratory diseases exhibit a similar rate to that of the previous year 1904. The deaths from Phthisis have again slightly fallen, and the rate of 0·636 is very satisfactory.

In estimating the sanitary condition and progress of a district, the foregoing are considered to be important factors, their generally favourable character is therefore very gratifying and a strong incentive to increased endeavours.

I have compiled the following table so that these various items may be presented to you in such form as to enable you to make a comparison betwixt each of the principal divisions of your district with the others, and the past with the previous year.

1905. DIVISIONS.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Zymotic Diseases.		Phthisis.		Respiratory Diseases.		Infantile Mortality.	
			No.	rate	No.	rate	No.	rate	No.	rate
Turton	19·0	11·02	4	0·58	3	0·43	19	2·75	10	76·3
Edgworth	17·6	13·3	8	3·13	3	1·17	5	1·95	3	66·6
Bradshaw	23·2	13·7	3	1·13	2	0·88	9	3·99	3	55·5
Belmont	23·2	4·5	0	0	0	0	1	1·17	2	100·0
Whole District	19·8	11·6	15	1·19	8	0·63	34	2·706	18	72·0
1904.										
Turton	22·23	13·2	2	0·27	4	0·5	15	2·1	10	67·8
Edgworth	20·0	9·8	0	0	2	0·78	2	0·78	4	78·4
Bradshaw	25·8	13·7	2	0·88	1	0·45	11	4·9	8	137·9
Belmont	22·1	9·3	1	1·1	2	2·3	0	0	1	52·7
Whole District.....	22·13	12·38	5	0·39	9	0·71	28	2·23	23	83·03

The infectious diseases notified during the year numbered 121, an increase of 36 as compared with the previous year, which is divided betwixt the notifications of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria in the Edgworth Ward. The distribution of these cases over the several divisions of the district, is shown in table 3 annexed to this report.

The following is an analysis of the notified cases in respect of number and resultant mortality.

DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANOUS CROUP.—17 cases, 13 of the former, 4 of the latter disease. The former disease was not epidemic; the cases were distributed over the whole district. Eagley Ward contributed 3 cases, one was caused by the child having the habit of looking down the manholes in connection with the sewers, one was contracted at the place of employment in Bolton, and the other by direct infection from this latter one. Chapeltown had two cases, both in the same house. The first was infected by attending the Out-Patients Department of the Bolton Infirmary, the other becoming infected from contact with this one. Egerton had two cases due to playing near a tip for refuse in one instance, and to a leaky ashpit in the other. One case was reported from Bradshaw, for which no local cause could be discovered. The five remaining cases were situated in Edgworth, and formed the series of cases mentioned in my Monthly Report for October. They were all more or less in direct sequence to a case which was apparently due to a defective ashpit connected with the school at which most of them attended. This was the only fatal case of Diphtheria during the year. Insanitary conditions were found to exist in the neighbourhood of two houses in which some of the infected children lived. Of the cases of Membranous Croup, 3 were fatal.

ERYSIPELAS.—Notified cases numbered 6, but no fatal results were recorded.

ENTERIC FEVER.—Five cases were notified with one death. Four of these cases were probably due to the effluvia from sewer manholes, whilst the other had its origin in foul and defective drains.

SCARLET FEVER.—Notified cases numbered 93 and were distributed as follows: Eagley, Egerton, Bromley Cross and Chapel-town Wards 24; Bradshaw 17; Edgworth 52. Seven deaths, 5 in Edgworth and 2 in Bradshaw, were recorded. The cases in the Wards comprising the Turton Division, were distributed fairly equally and spread over the whole year. The disease did not assume an epidemic character, and most of the cases had what might be termed an

accidental origin, the origin of the remainder was direct infection from the others.

Forty-seven of the cases in the Edgworth Ward were in continuation of the epidemic mentioned in my last Annual Report, which appeared to have terminated during the Christmas holiday, but commenced again on January 22nd, other cases being reported on January 25th and 30th, 5 cases in all, situated in two houses. During February there were 7 cases in 3 houses. The disease continued up to the month of August, when 1 case only was notified. The numbers in each of the intervening months were as follows:— March, 10; April, 6; May, 7; June, 9 all in one house; July, 2 in the same house. After August, 5 others occurred in the months of October and November, four being in one house, three proving fatal. These 5 cases were in houses in which there had been previous cases notified on March 22nd and August 18th. No cases were notified from the Edgworth District after November 9th to the end of the year.

Of the 17 cases in the Bradshaw Ward, 11 contributed to the formation of a small epidemic during December in the Harwood portion of the ward. They formed a series of cases having an originating cause in a case in Tonge Moor Road, Bolton, the affected child being a scholar attending the Harwood Wesleyan School; the majority of the children who afterwards suffered from the disease being also in attendance at this school.

MEASLES.—As this is not a notifiable disease we have no data upon which an estimate of the number of cases can be founded. The disease however, prevailed so extensively amongst the children attending the Eagley Schools, that I considered it necessary to recommend the closing of the schools for one month, from March 31st, which effectively fulfilled the object of limiting the spread of the disease. The disease also prevailed in Edgworth, amongst the children attending the Wesleyan School, and in Belmont; but in neither of these localities was it so extensive as to necessitate the closing of the schools.

SMALL-POX.—No cases were notified but one “contact” was reported to me, which I immediately visited and performed re-vaccination.

The methods adopted with the object of preventing the spread of infective disease were "house isolation," two cases only being removed to the Bolton Isolation Hospital; the visitation of schools; the closing of school when considered necessary; the fumigation and cleaning of schools, infected houses, wearing apparel and bedding. In the absence of any form of stoving appliances this is the only method of dealing with these things.

Your district is not provided with any Isolation Hospital accommodation excepting the arrangement with the Ainsworth Small-pox Hospital Authorities providing two beds for the accommodation of cases of small-pox.

The Bolton Corporation Waterworks supply the whole district with water, excepting a few outlying farms and cottages which obtain their supply from springs and shallow wells. In the case of 3 farms and 20 cottages the supply was found to be polluted, necessitating the cleansing of the storage tanks and filters. With these exceptions the water supply has been satisfactory.

The whole district is properly sewered and the various sewage works have worked satisfactorily.

The scavenging of the district is fairly well performed, but I must repeat my previous suggestion as to the desirability of adopting some measure for the prevention of the dust nuisance in the principal roads and highways. Dust is not only an annoyance, but it is a fruitful source of illness, and very often contains the germs of disease.

I am pleased to note that during the year there were 83 conversions from the highly objectionable and injurious ashpit methods of excrement disposal to the more sanitary water carriage system, and I hope your Council will still encourage these conversions by continuing to grant the bonus upon conversions during the coming year.

I have made regular and systematic inspections of your whole district during the year, and have notified to your Sanitary Inspector several sanitary defects which have been brought under my notice, and in all instances prompt removal has been effected.

The various workshops have been visited and their sanitary condition has been carefully supervised. In respect of ventilation, air space and cleanliness, the legal requirements have been properly carried out. A few insanitary conditions have been discovered and remedied, the details of which will be found included in the Table which I have appended to this report.

Three overcrowded and six dirty houses were discovered, and proper notices of abatement were issued, with the result that the legal requirements were carried out.

I inspected the carcasses of two cows which had been killed in consequence of injury and sickness, but in neither case could I certify that they were unfit for human consumption.

During the year I have made the following Special Reports to your Sanitary Committee.

January 6th.—Closure of Hob Lane School.

March 31st.—Closure of Eagley School.

Your Sanitary Inspector reports to me as follows:—

SMOKE NUISANCE—OBSERVATIONS, 111—

Several stokers and others in charge of boilers were cautioned and 5 notices of abatement were issued to owners.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS—NUMBER ON REGISTER, DAIRIES 109 AND COWSHEDS 190—

Discontinued during the year—Dairies 6, Cowsheds 9. Inspections made—Dairies 218, Cowsheds 380. 190 cowsheds and 109 dairies were limewashed. 6 cowshed drains were found to be defective and were either repaired or re-constructed. 4 cowshed drains were trapped. Two new cowsheds were erected, and 4 dairies were repaired. 3 new liquid manure tanks were provided. 4 notices were issued to tenants relating to insanitary conditions and abatement was effected in each case. Two cases of pig-keeping in contravention of the order in respect of pig-keeping were notified and compliance with the order obtained.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES—NUMBER ON REGISTER, 10—

383 visits were paid and the Premises were found to be in a satisfactory condition. 4 notices in respect of limewashing and 2 in respect of defective drainage were issued, and the demands were attended to.

BAKEHOUSES—NUMBER ON REGISTER, 13—

62 visits were paid and they were all found to be in a satisfactory condition. 2 notices were issued in respect of limewashing, and 2 in respect of sanitary defects, the requirements being carried out. 2 drains were repaired, 2 re-constructed, and two new water-closets were provided.

VANS, TENTS, &C., USED AS DWELLINGS—

22 visited the district and were regularly inspected. The sanitary regulations were properly observed.

SCAVENGING—PRIVIES AND ASHPITS—

2,049 ashpits were cleaned in the scavenging area of Bromley Cross, Eagley, Egerton, and Chapeltown. Regular inspections of the ashpits outside this area were made, and the ashpits and privies were found to be in a fairly satisfactory condition.

Number found defective	....	....	....	75
Number repaired	....	....	....	56
Conversion of ashpits to water carriage systems				74
New water closets in lieu of ashpits....			....	9
Conversion of ashpits to dry ash houses	....			47

WORKSHOPS—NUMBER ON REGISTER, 17—

61 inspections were made. 3 notices in respect of sanitary defects, and 3 in respect of limewashing were issued. 2 drains were found defective and were repaired. 1 drain was re-constructed and 2 were trapped. 2 new water closets were provided. All the workshops were limewashed.

The following summary represents the sanitary work performed during the year:—

Number of inspections	....	....	....	1502
Number of re-inspections	....	....	....	1862
Outstanding notices from previous year			....	42
Notices issued	....	....	....	132
Nuisances abated	....	....	....	150
Notices; time limit, unexpired, &c., &c.			....	24
Smoke testing drains	....	....	....	231
House drains re-constructed, repaired, &c., &c.				276
House drains trapped	....	....	....	172
Main drains re-constructed	....	....	....	12
Surface of yards repaired, &c.			....	118
Slopstone pipes disconnected, repaired, &c.			....	142
Downspouts disconnected, repaired, &c.			....	315
Carcases of meat unfit for food and destroyed				2
Carcases of meat inspected....	....	....	....	19
New urinals erected and and repaired			....	8
Houses fumigated	....	....	....	72
Schools fumigated	....	....	....	14
Accumulators of filth removed			....	9
Pigstyes near dwellings removed	....		....	5

I have appended to this Report the following Tables:—

- No. 1.—Statistics of whole District during the year, &c.
 No. 2.—Vital Statistics of separate Localities.

- No. 3.—Infectious diseases notified during the year.
No. 4.—Cause of, and age at, deaths during the year.
No. 5.—Infantile Mortality during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. ROBINSON, M.D., L.S.Sc.,

Medical Officer of Health.

January 31st, 1906.

